

MARVEL
REMEMBERS



JOHN
ROMITA

MARVEL 9

LGY#659

THE INVINCIBLE

IRON MAN

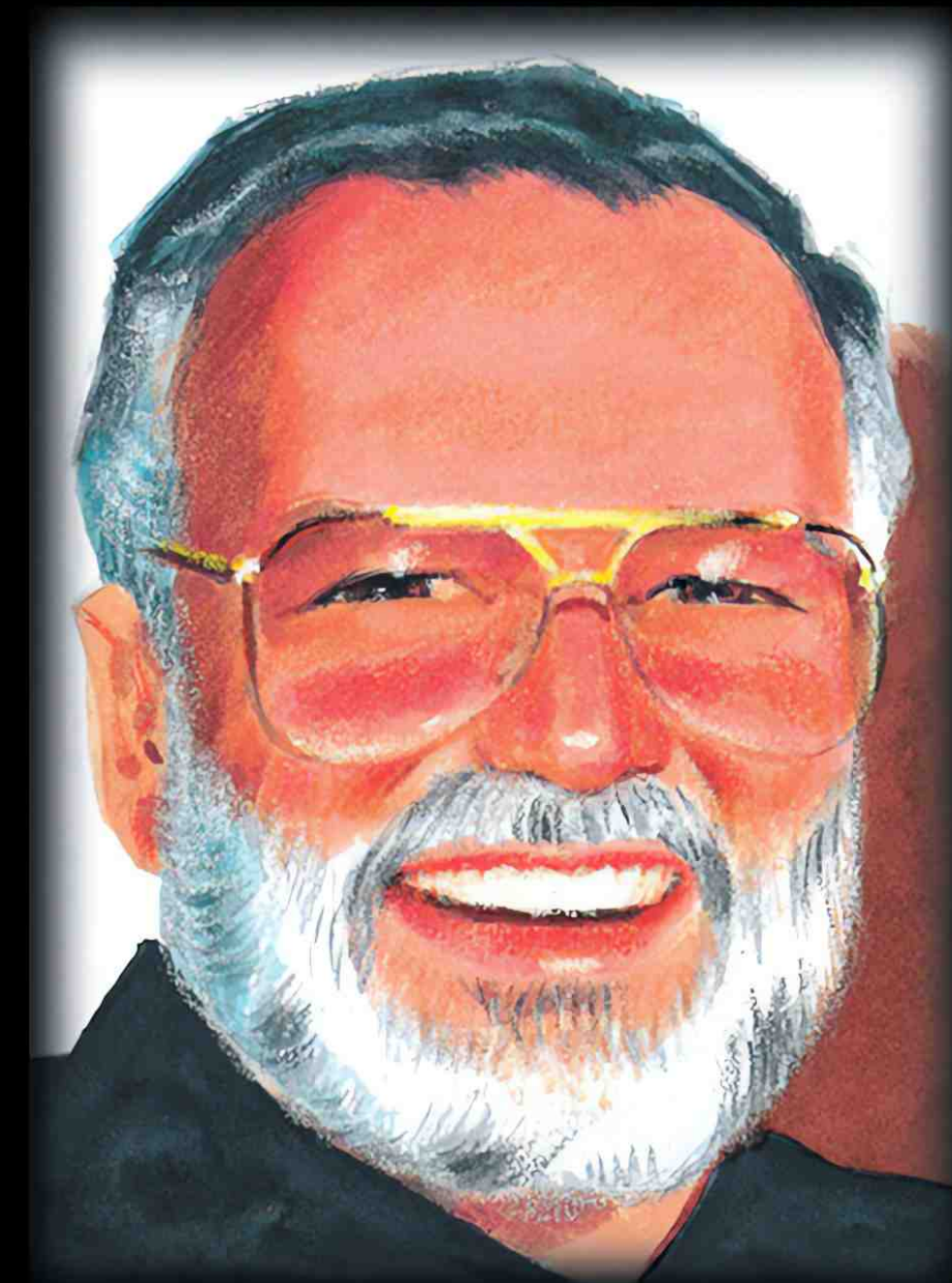


DUGGAN
FRIGERI
VALENZA



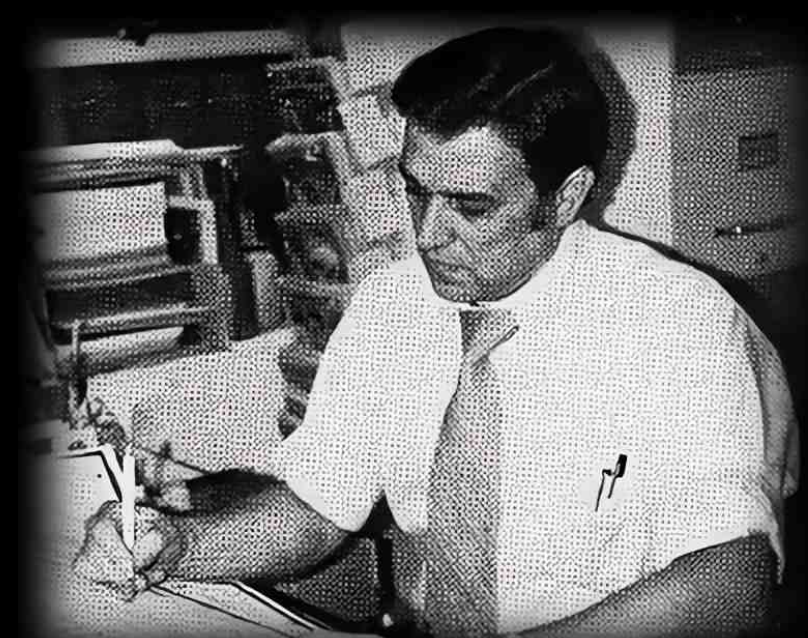
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

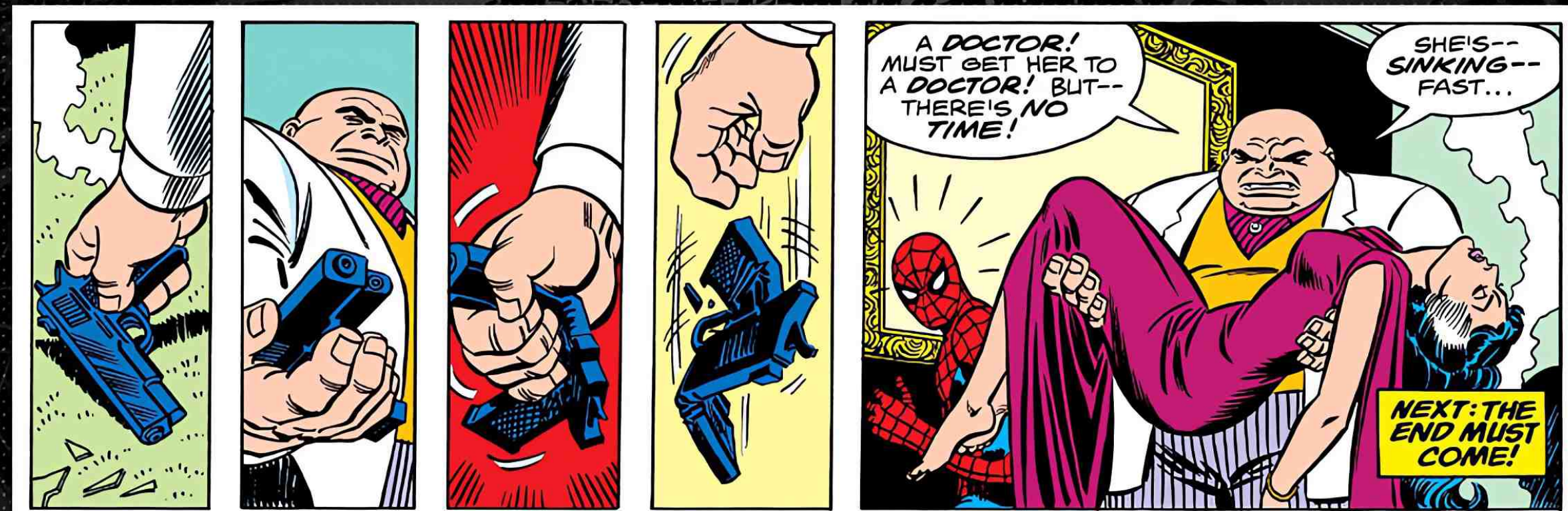
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'laddy John Romita'."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

WHEN MULTIBILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK, INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, DONS HIS SOLAR-CHARGED, STEEL-MESH ARMOR, HE BECOMES A HIGH-TECH WARRIOR—THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

“THE END OF IRON MAN”

PREVIOUSLY...

Stark Unlimited has a new owner: the mutant-hating industrialist, Feilong! He has used his new acquisition to produce mutant-hunting Sentinels with Iron Man technology! Tony Stark tried to stop these Stark Sentinels from going into production, but Feilong is throwing obstacles in his path by framing his best friend Rhodey (A.K.A. War Machine) for murder and issuing a cease and desist to our hero, claiming ownership of the Iron Man technology. Simultaneously, Feilong and the anti-mutant think tank Orchis have turned humanity against mutants and attacked Krakoa, forcing the X-Men to flee Earth. But one of the few to remain was Emma Frost, who was targeted by the Stark Sentinels. Tony managed to help her escape, but now he's left defenseless and at Feilong's mercy...

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LETTERER

**BJÖRN BARENDT, MARTÍN CÓCCOLO
& JESUS ABURTOV**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

DARREN SHAN
EDITOR

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

Bluffing is at least fifty percent of capitalism and some smaller percentage of the Avengers business.

I've bluffed before, but never with everything on the line.

I've had nightmares like this.

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, FEILONG?

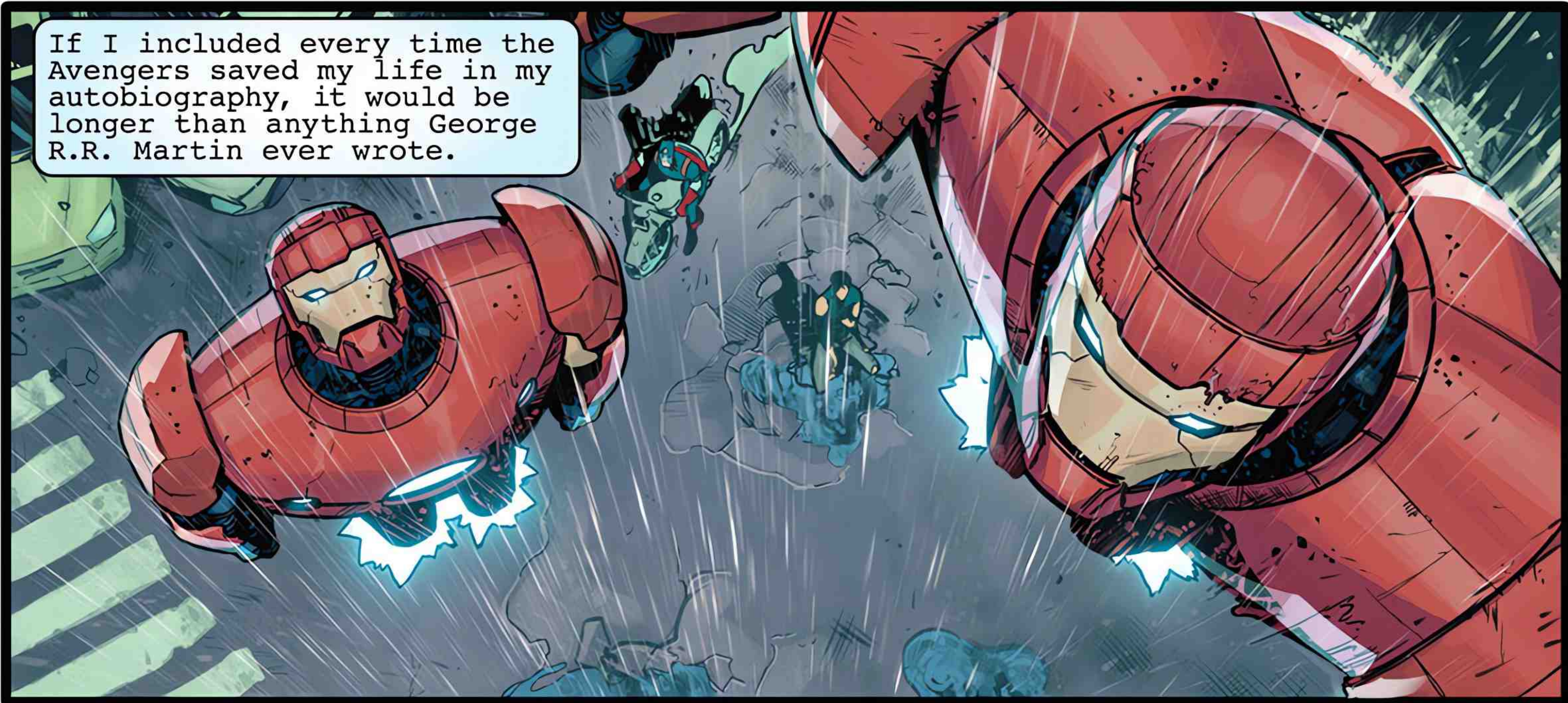
Of course, I wasn't playing cards or stocks or any of the other addictions I once had. I was playing for my life.

But the longer I made him think about it...

...the stronger my hand became.

AH HA HA!
SENTINELS, DISENGAGE.
RESUME PATROL FOR THE MOST WANTED MUTANTS.
FIND THE **WHITE QUEEN**
AND ALL THE QUIET COUNCIL MEMBERS.

AND TRACK THE MARK TO ARMOR.
I WANT TO PUT IT WITH THE OTHER ANTIQUES IN THE LOBBY OF THE MOTHERSHIP.



If I included every time the Avengers saved my life in my autobiography, it would be longer than anything George R.R. Martin ever wrote.



TONY, LET'S GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL.

NO.



STAY AWAY, CAP.

I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN WITH MY FRIENDS.

I WANT FEILONG TO THINK IT'S OVER... THAT HE'S BEATEN ME.



I HAVE A NEW SUIT THAT WILL LET ME CONTINUE TO BE AN AVENGER, BUT I'LL BE GOING DARK. THE LESS YOU KNOW, THE BETTER.

I'LL... I'LL BE IN TOUCH.



The weather was uncannily active after the Hellfire Gala. Rain that felt like it took it personally that I was out defying it.

I was grateful for the late hour and the bad weather.



When you're a drunk and the chips are down, you'd be surprised what you are grateful for. Or not.



LIGHN!

My phone has a discreet tracker for my armor. I set out to find Emma Frost...



...that night was the last time I remember a hot and muggy evening in New York.

It was as though, despite global warming, all the warmth and light had gone out of the world.

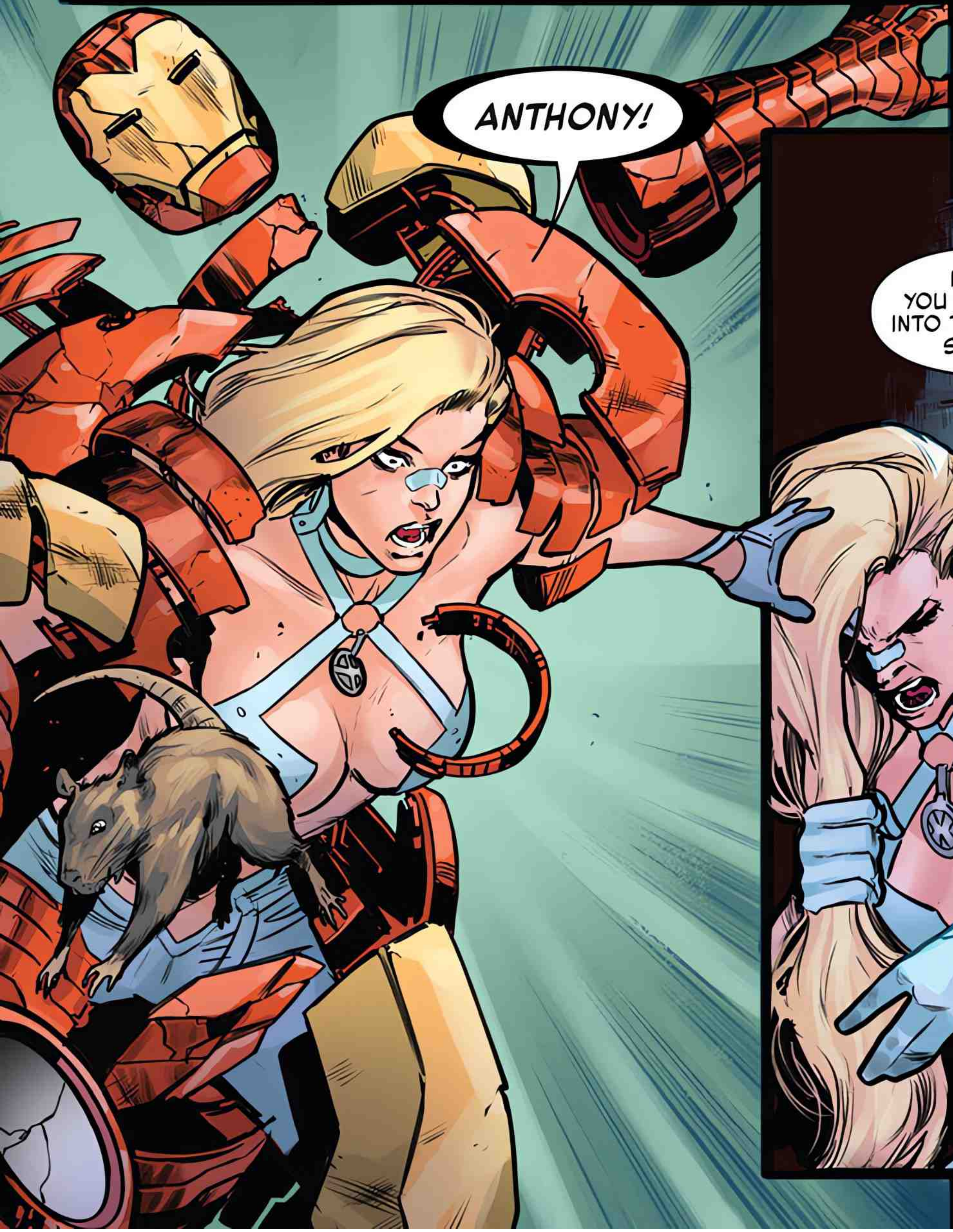


After an hour,
I got to the
lowest point in
Manhattan.

DON'T
BE MAD.



OPEN
SESAME.



ANTHONY!



HOW DARE
YOU SCOOP ME UP
INTO THIS UNWASHED
SWEATBOX!

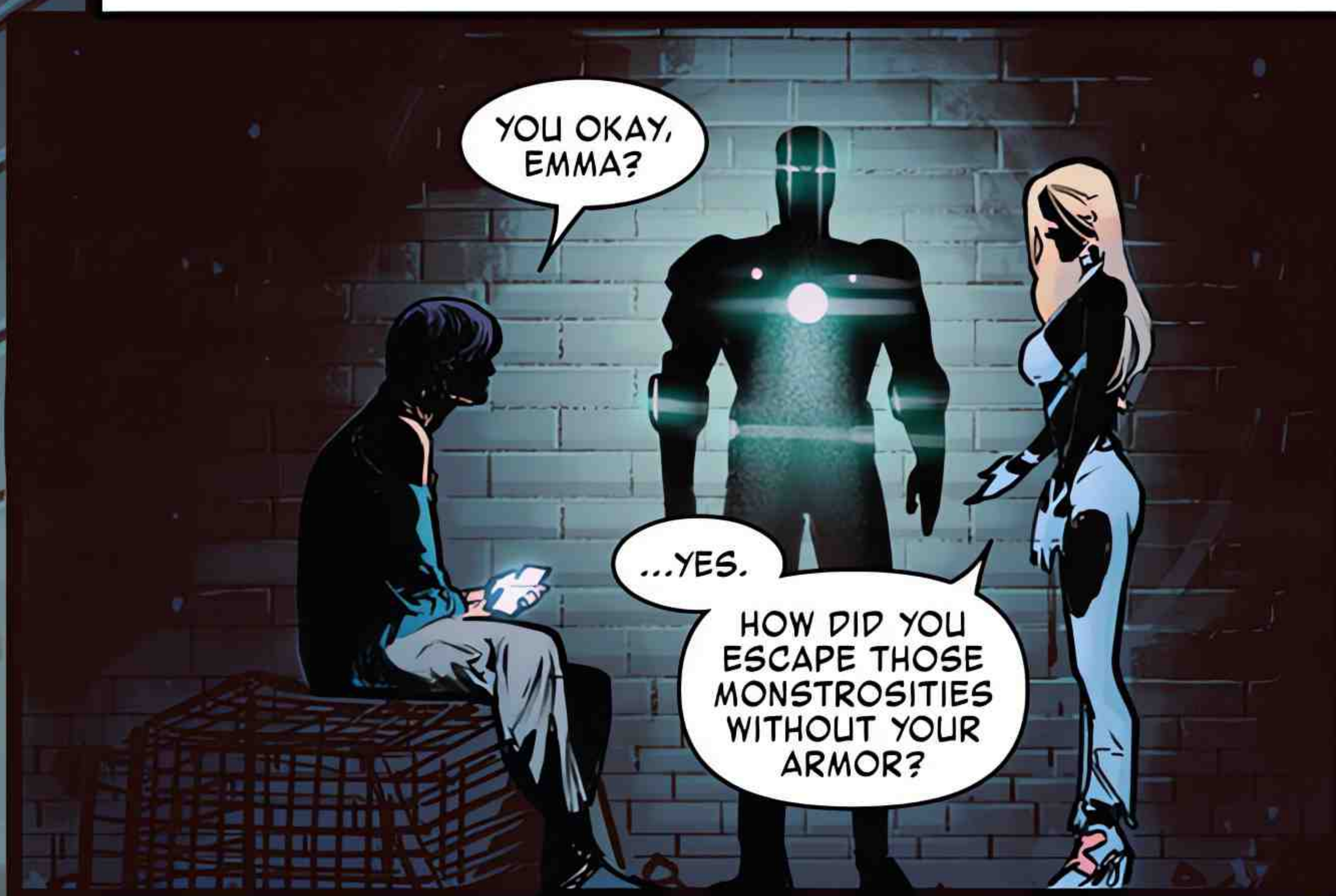


YOU'RE
INJURED.



ONLY MY EVERYTHING.

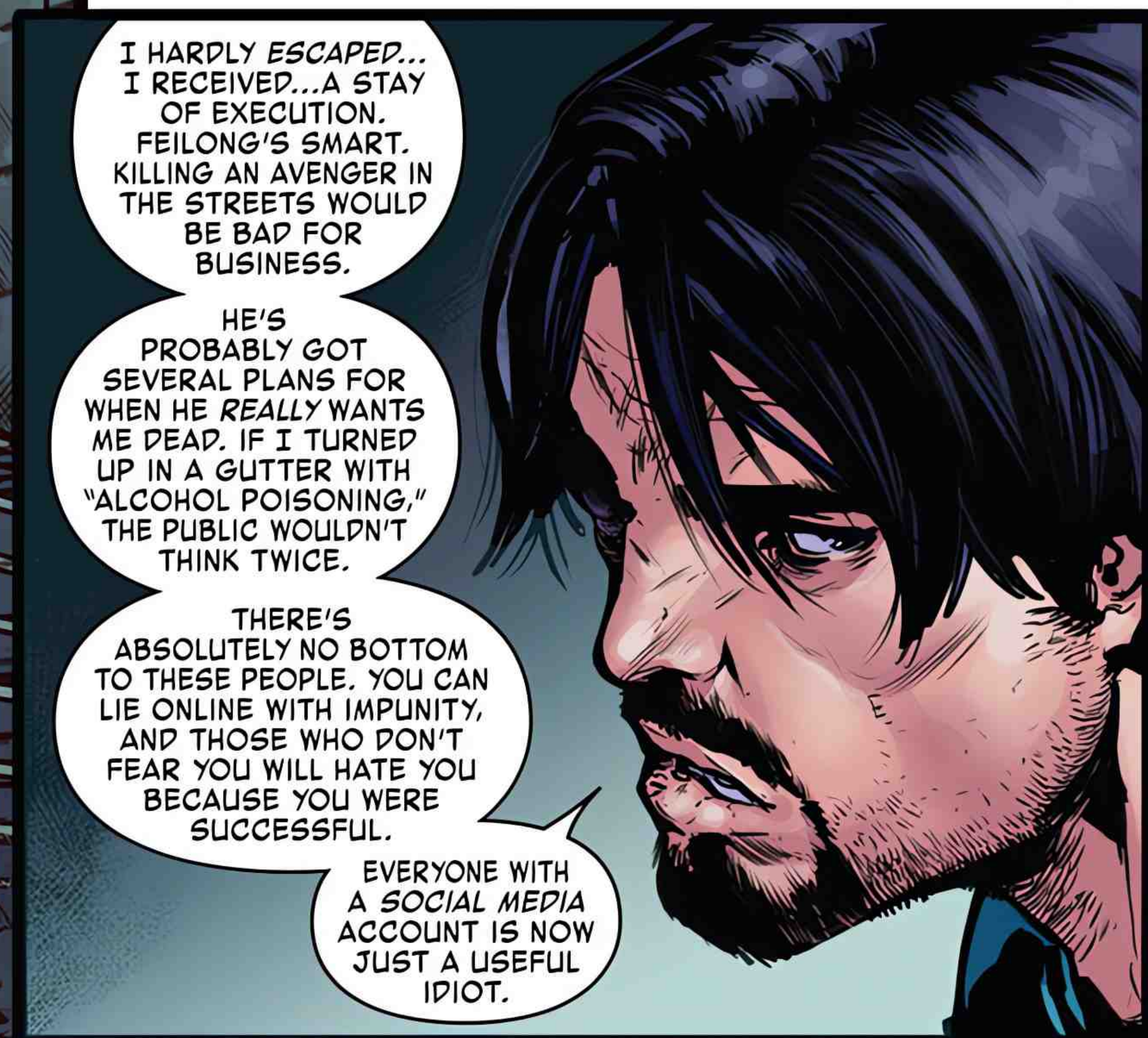
HEY, B.O.S.S.-- DISCO PROTOCOL.



YOU OKAY, EMMA?

...YES.

HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THOSE MONSTROSITIES WITHOUT YOUR ARMOR?



I HARDLY *ESCAPED*... I RECEIVED...A STAY OF EXECUTION. FEILONG'S SMART. KILLING AN AVENGER IN THE STREETS WOULD BE BAD FOR BUSINESS.

HE'S PROBABLY GOT SEVERAL PLANS FOR WHEN HE REALLY WANTS ME DEAD. IF I TURNED UP IN A GUTTER WITH "ALCOHOL POISONING," THE PUBLIC WOULDN'T THINK TWICE.

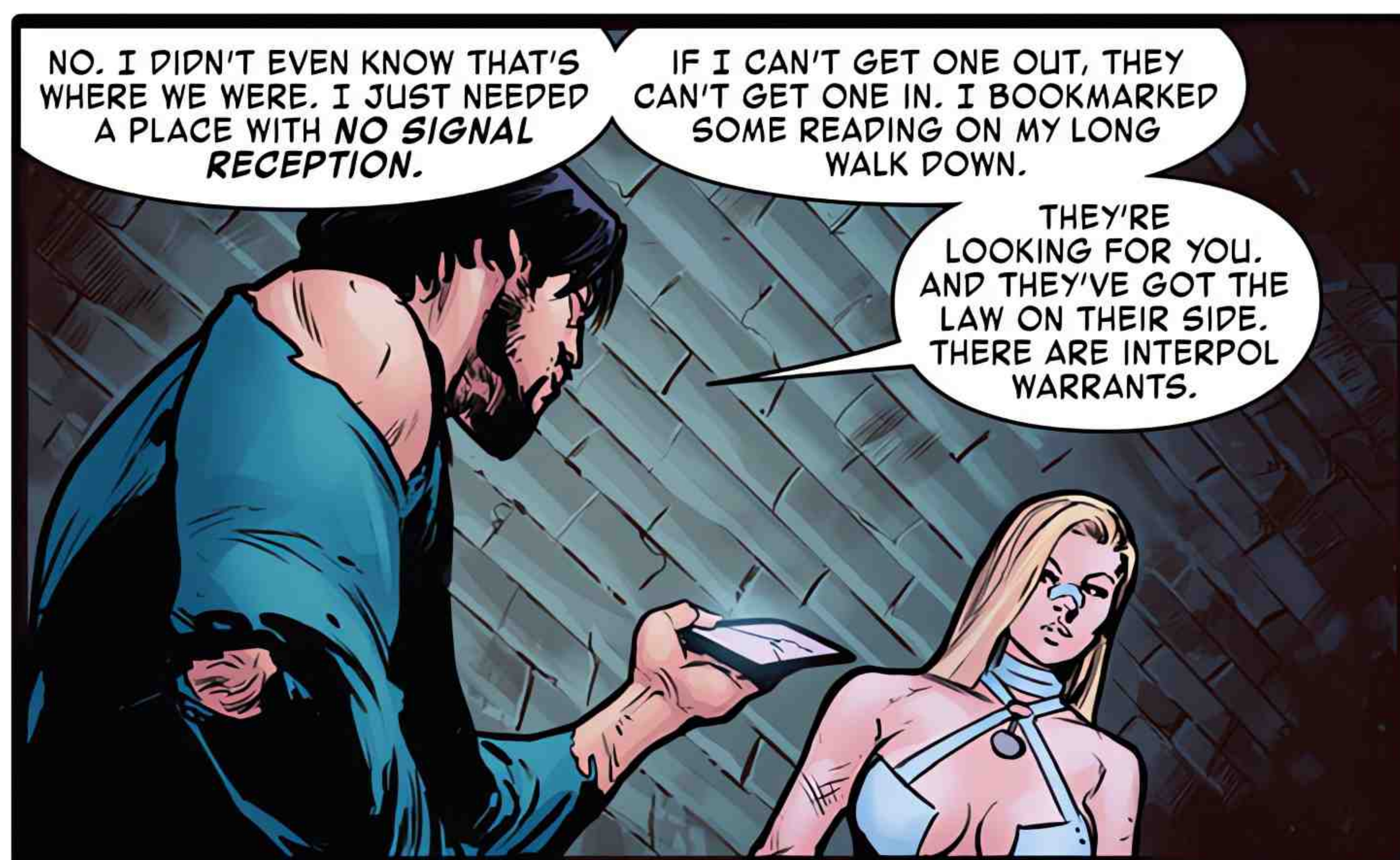
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO BOTTOM TO THESE PEOPLE. YOU CAN LIE ONLINE WITH IMPUNITY, AND THOSE WHO DON'T FEAR YOU WILL HATE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL.

EVERYONE WITH A *SOCIAL MEDIA* ACCOUNT IS NOW JUST A USEFUL IDIOT.



INDEED. AND DARE I ASK-- IS CASTING ME DOWN INTO THE MORLOCK TUNNELS...MORE GALLOWES HUMOR?

SOME HUMBLE PIE TO SERVE THE WHITE QUEEN?



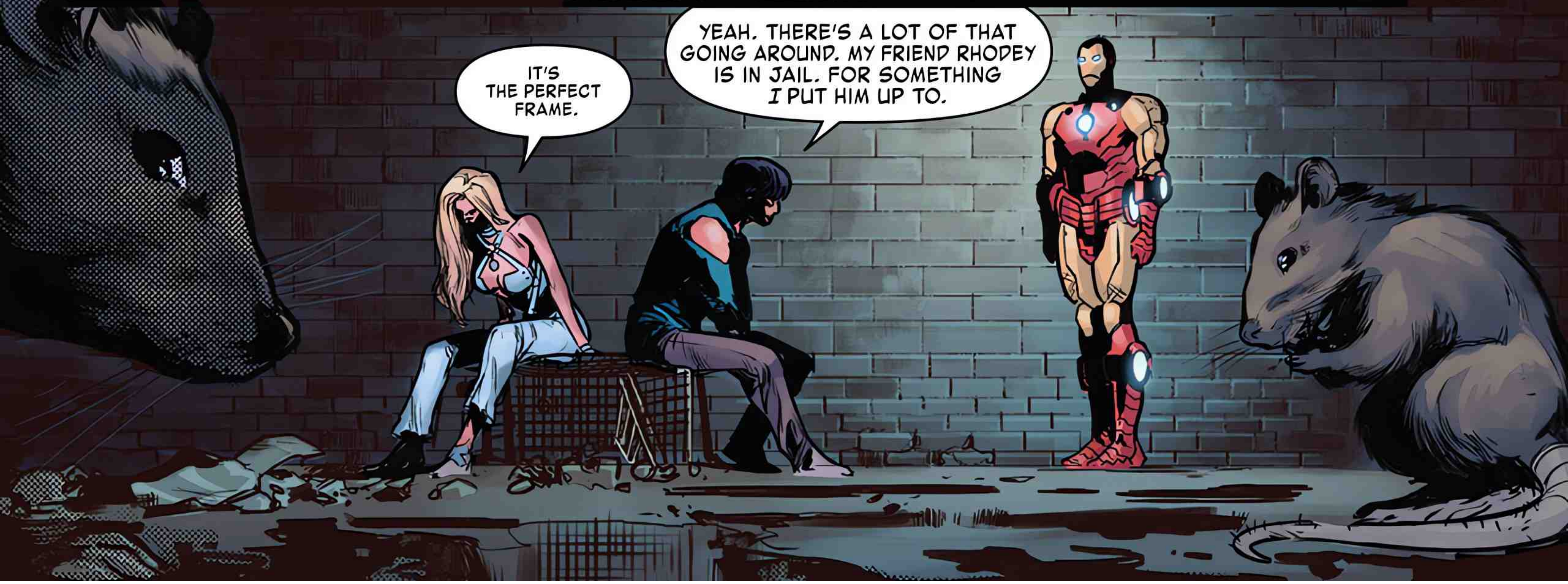
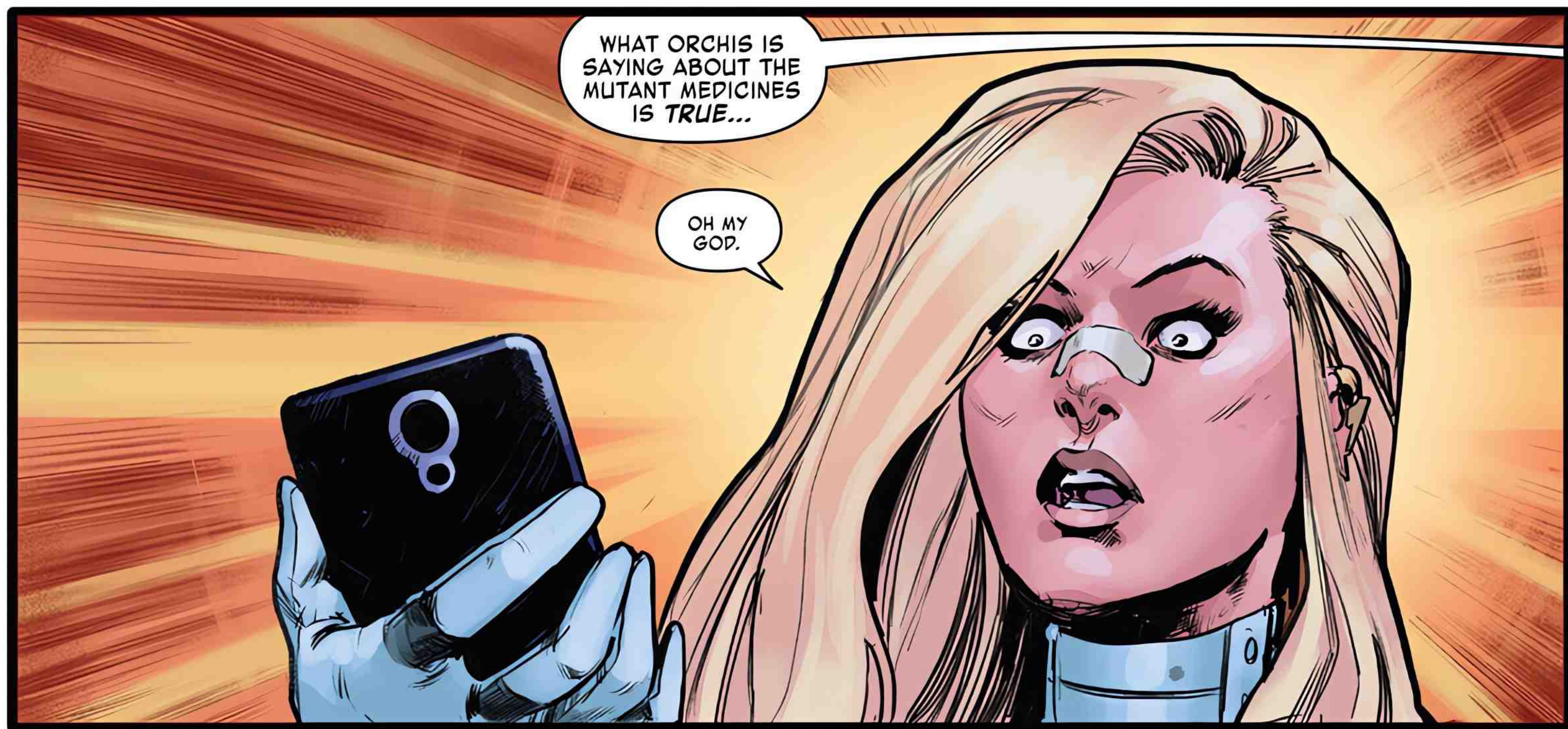
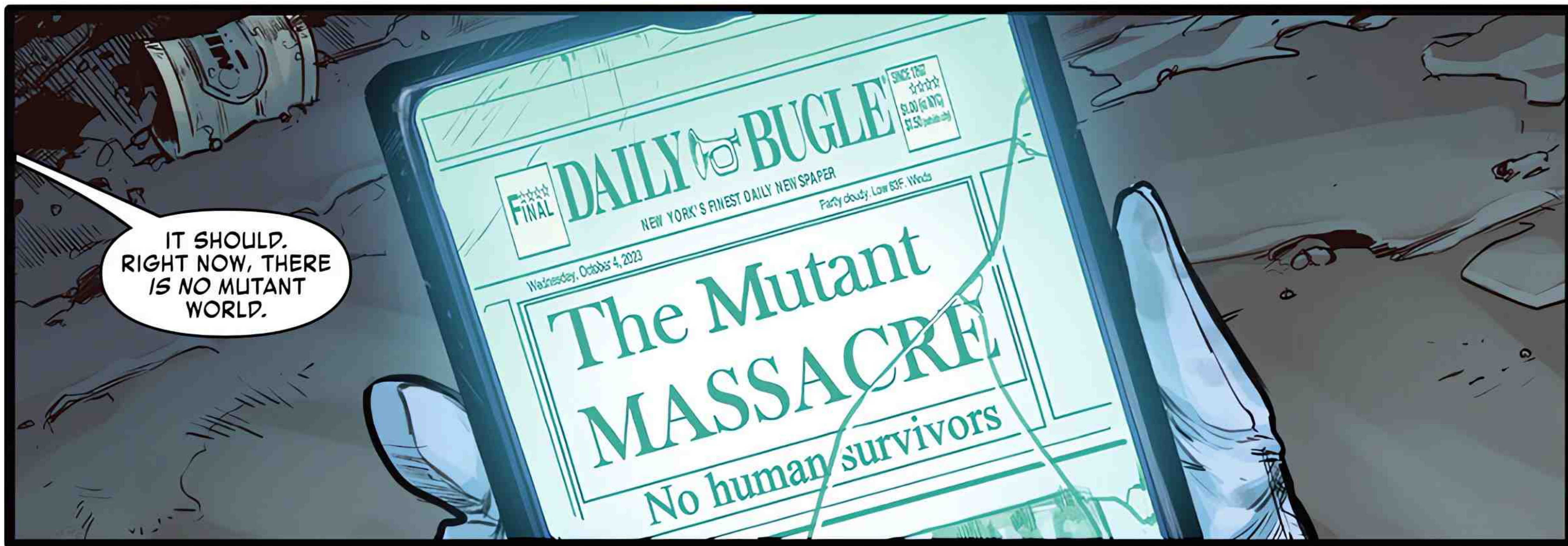
NO. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT'S WHERE WE WERE. I JUST NEEDED A PLACE WITH *NO SIGNAL RECEPTION*.

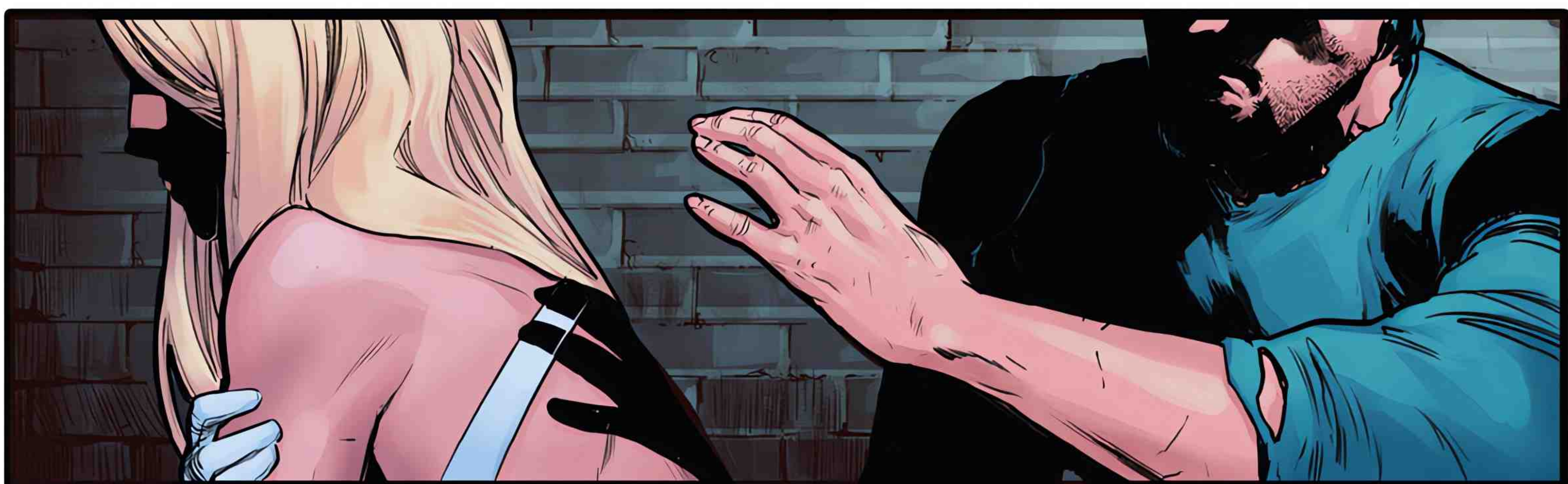
IF I CAN'T GET ONE OUT, THEY CAN'T GET ONE IN. I BOOKMARKED SOME READING ON MY LONG WALK DOWN.

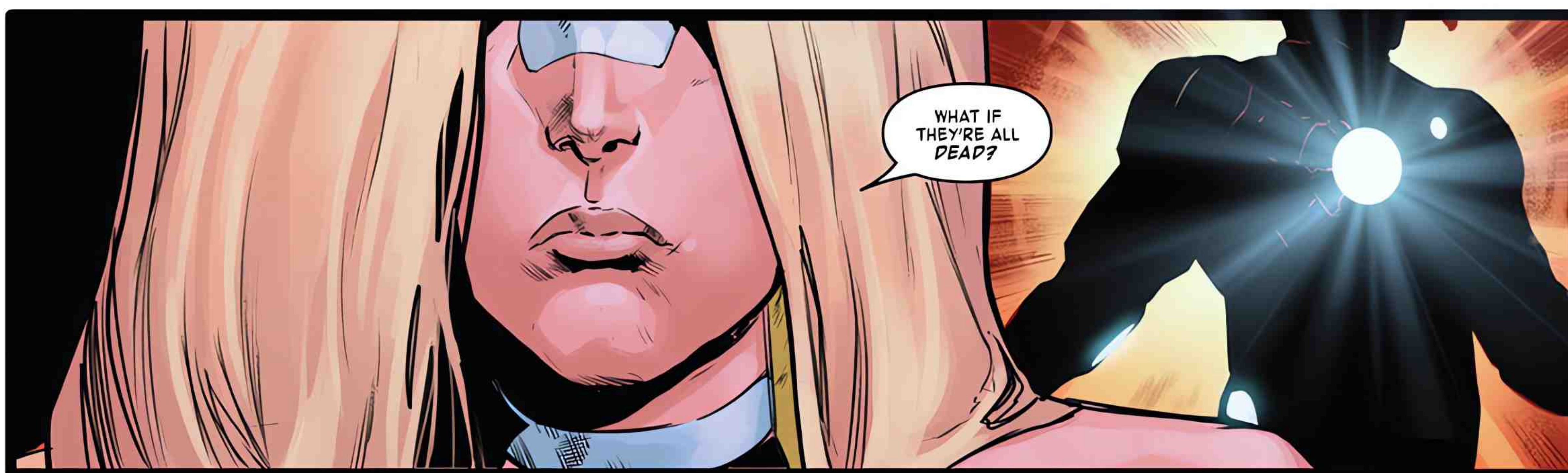
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU. AND THEY'VE GOT THE LAW ON THEIR SIDE. THERE ARE INTERPOL WARRANTS.



YOU MENTION THIS AS THOUGH THE HUMAN WORLD MATTERS TO ME.

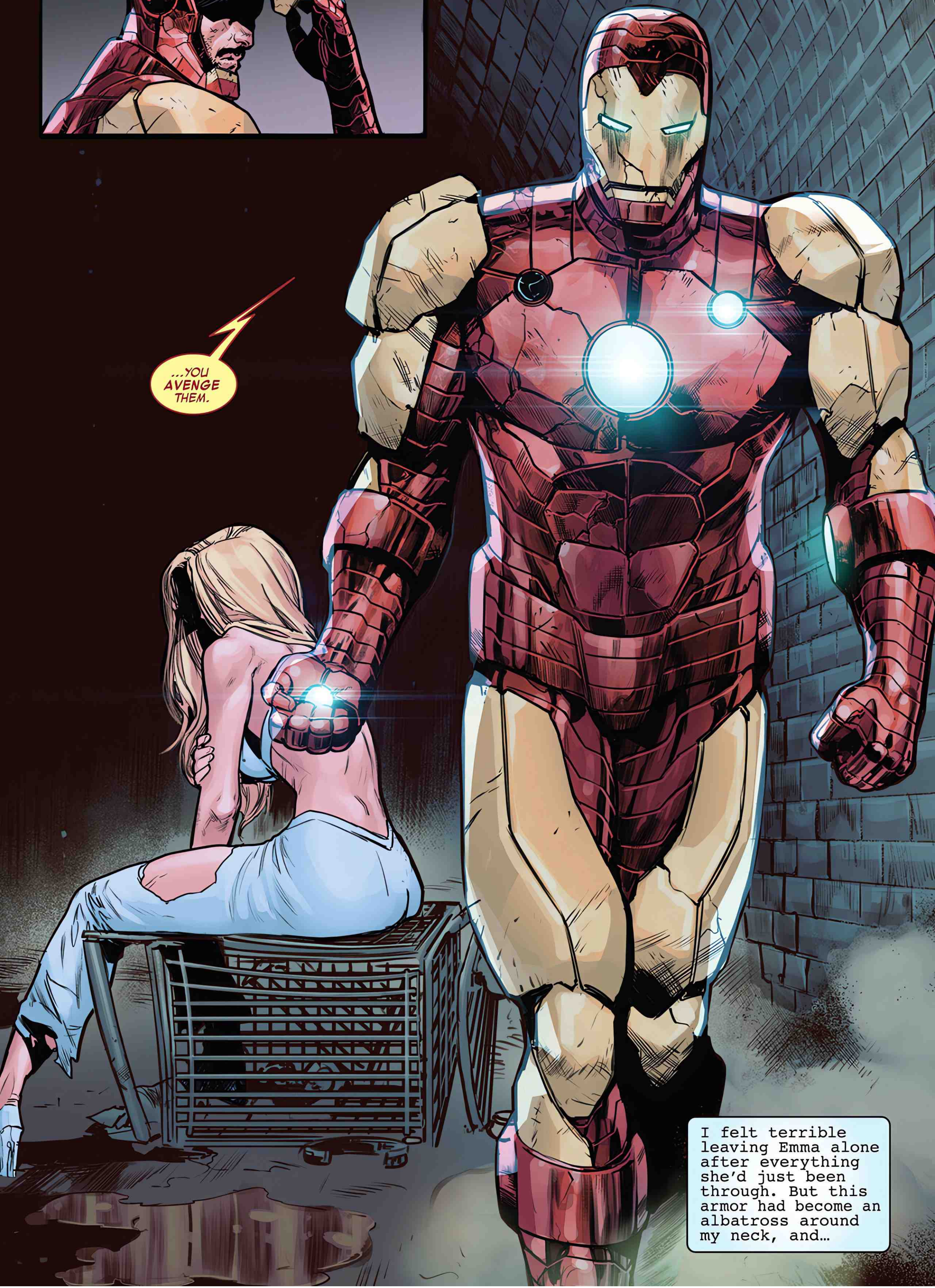




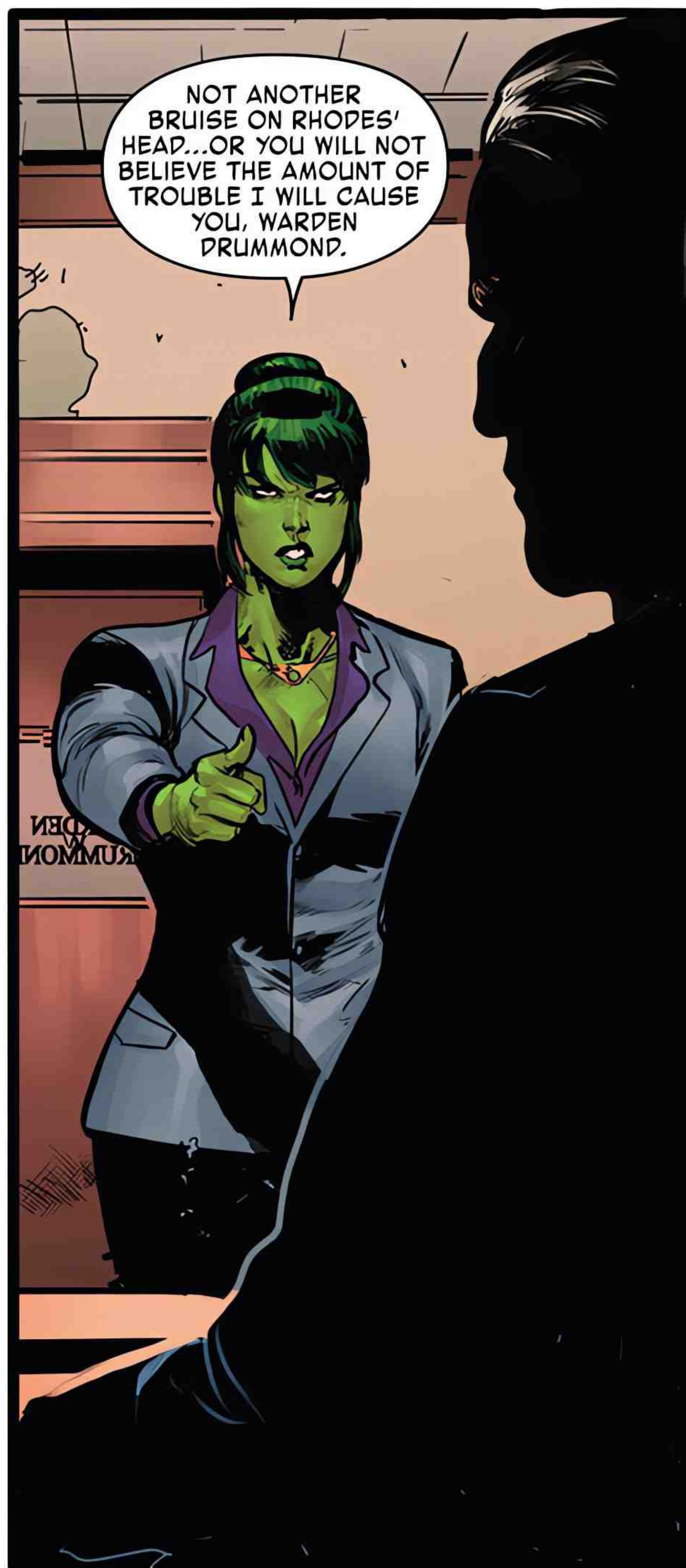




...YOU
AVENGE
THEM.



I felt terrible leaving Emma alone after everything she'd just been through. But this armor had become an albatross around my neck, and...





**STARK UNLIMITED HQ,
NEW YORK CITY.**

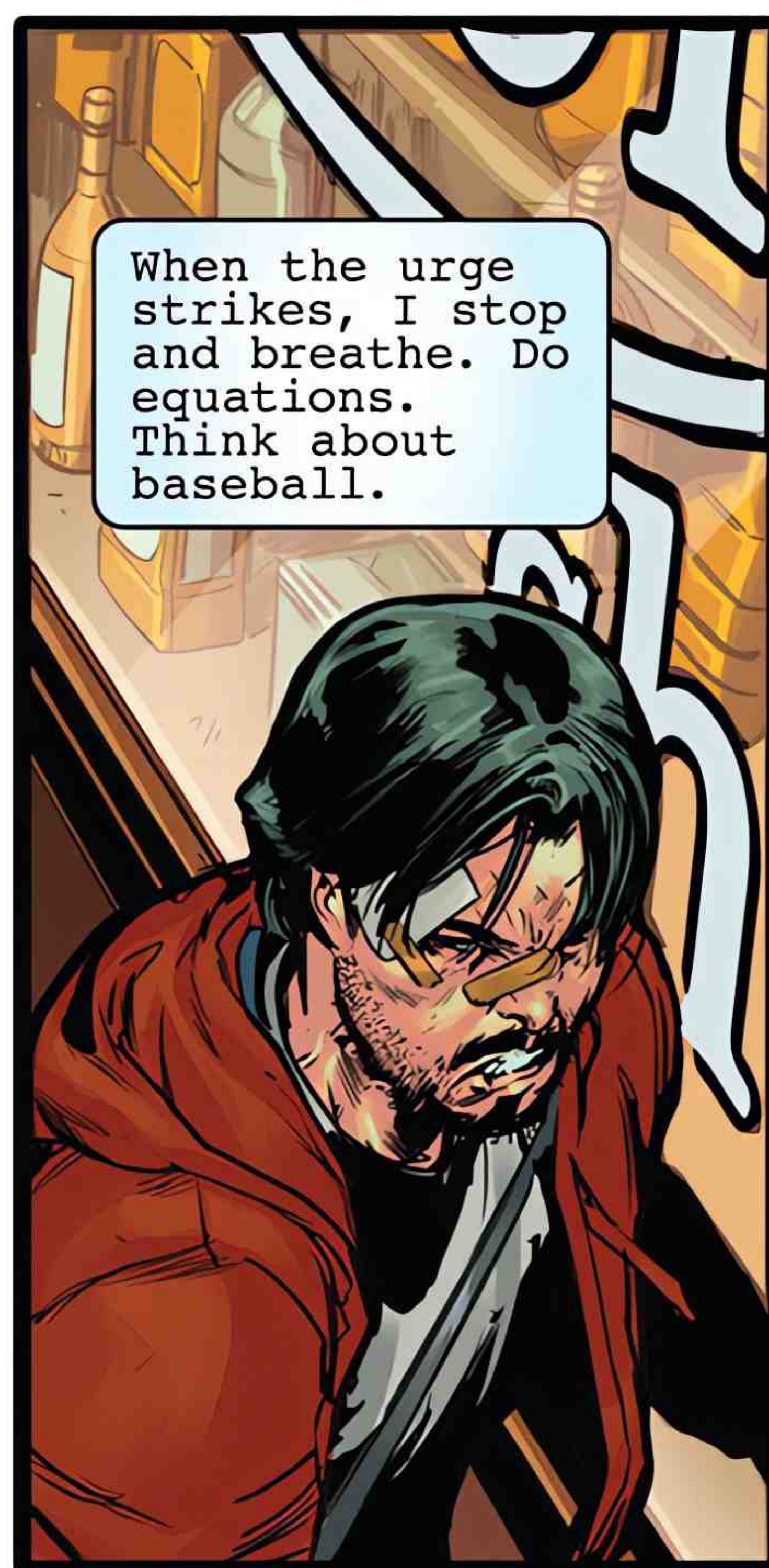
With B.O.S.S. secretly deleted and the Mark 70 hollowed out, there was no reason not to comply with a court order. He wanted the armor?

**STARK
UNLIMITED**

I gave it to him.

CALL OFF
THE ATTACK
ON RHODES.
OR SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES.

WHY, TONY,
I HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
REFERRING TO.
IS YOUR FRIEND
EXPERIENCING
DISCOMFORT
IN JAIL?





I didn't make it back to the Morlock Tunnels until nightfall.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOING TO RETURN.

HONESTLY...?



I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D STILL BE HERE. THE SENTINELS ARE HUNTING. RUMORS OF DEPORTATIONS TO MAR--ER, ARAKKO.

I BROUGHT YOU SOME ESSENTIALS. A COUPLE OF BUCKS. I DON'T THINK I'D BE MUCH HELP TO YOU. I'VE GOT TO--



OH, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO STAY. KRAKOA IS ALL BUT DESTROYED--

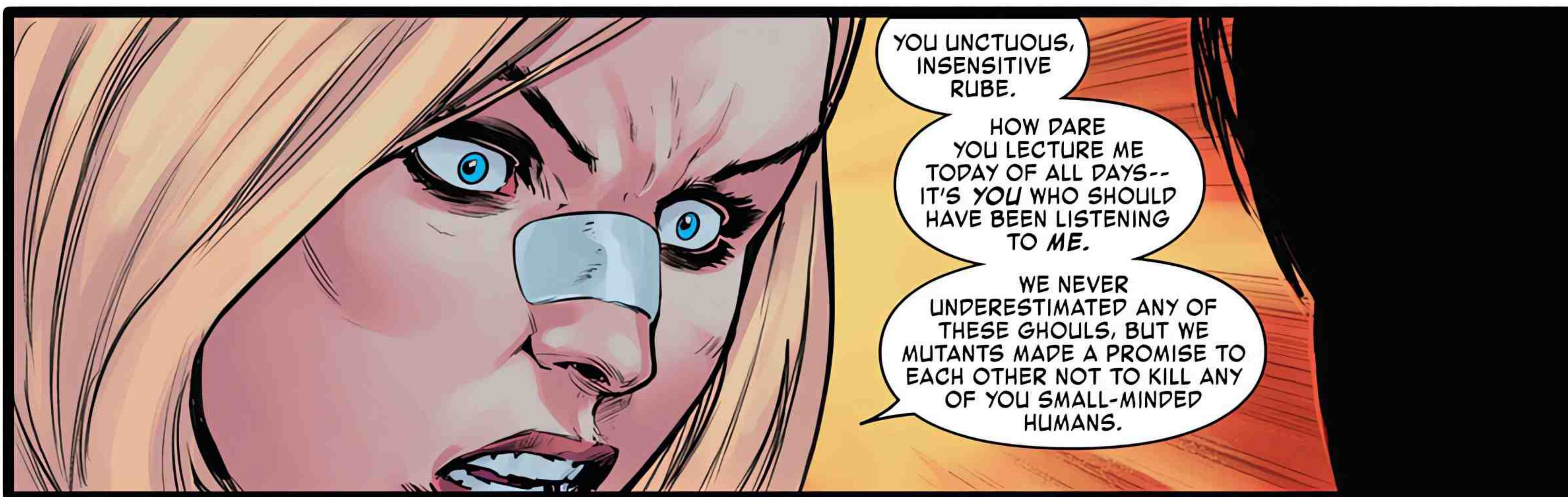
--BUT YOU AND THE REST OF THE AVENGERS MUST HAVE A DATE WITH THE MOLE MAN OR SOMETHING?

HAVE YOU GOT TO RUN OFF AND BUILD A NEW BILLION-DOLLAR ARMOR, OR--?



HEY! NOT TODAY, LADY!

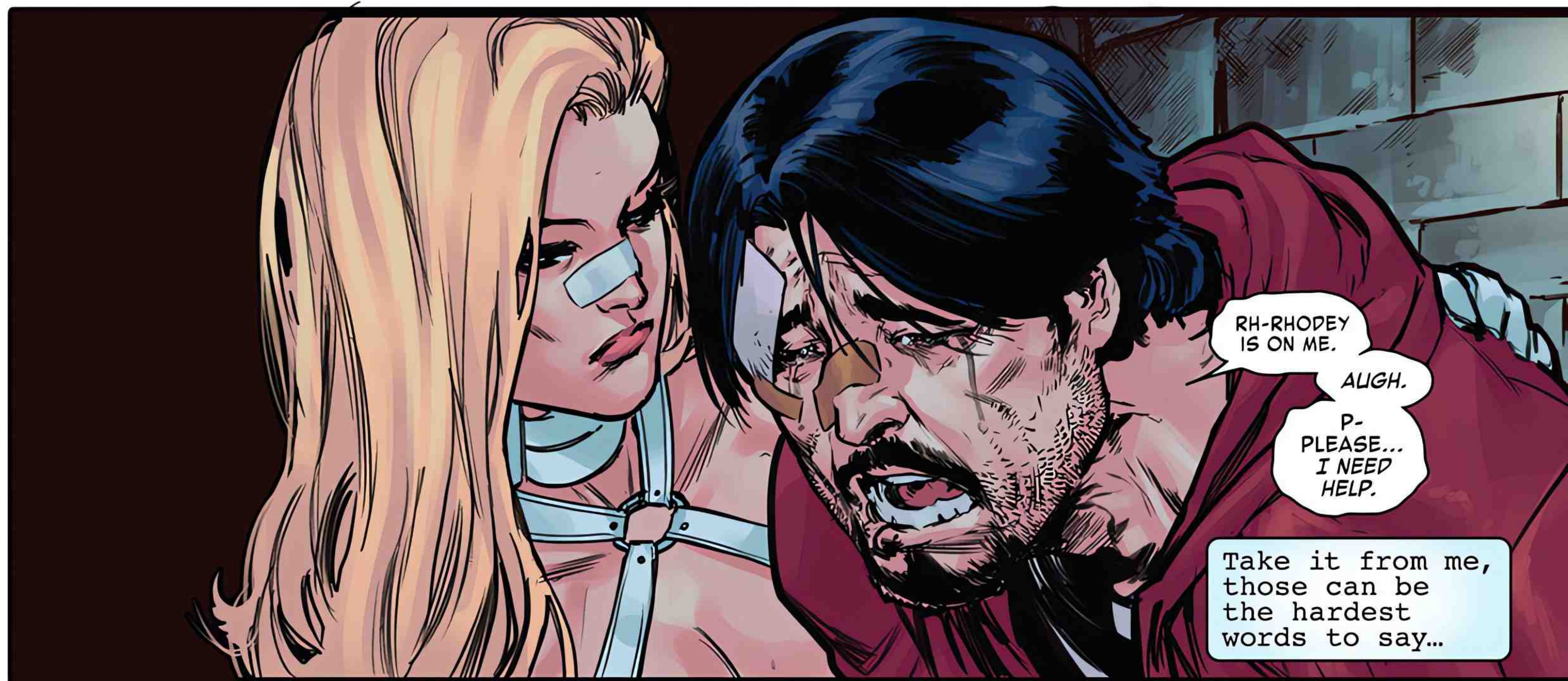
ALL OF THIS COULD'VE BEEN AVOIDED IF YOU'D LISTENED TO ME AT YOUR PREVIOUS KEY PARTY, WHEN I SAID THAT FEILONG WAS OUTMANEUVERING YOU!



YOU UNCTUOUS, INSENSITIVE RUBE.

HOW DARE YOU LECTURE ME TODAY OF ALL DAYS-- IT'S YOU WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO ME.

WE NEVER UNDERESTIMATED ANY OF THESE GHOULS, BUT WE MUTANTS MADE A PROMISE TO EACH OTHER NOT TO KILL ANY OF YOU SMALL-MINDED HUMANS.



...but they can be a golden equation...or, if you're not technically minded...that phrase can be a magic spell.

STARK INDUSTRIES

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WE'RE IN CALIFORNIA.

WE'RE IN YOUR MIND--
I SIMPLY TOOK YOU TO
YOUR HAPPY PLACE. CERTAINLY
BETTER THAN THAT DREADFUL
ALLEY I FOUND YOU IN
LAST NIGHT.*

YOUR IDEALISTIC
SELF-IMAGE IS ODDLY DEVOID
OF THE TRAMPS, GUNRUNNERS AND
NON-UNION MI-6 AGENTS THAT I'VE
LONG ASSOCIATED YOU WITH,
SO FORGIVE ME FOR MY
PRECONCEPTIONS.

*SEE LAST ISSUE! --DS

THESE DAYS...THE
HANGARS...THEY WERE THE
BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE. I HAVE
BEEN RUMINATING A BIT ON THE
PAST--I'VE BEEN WRITING
A MEMOIR.

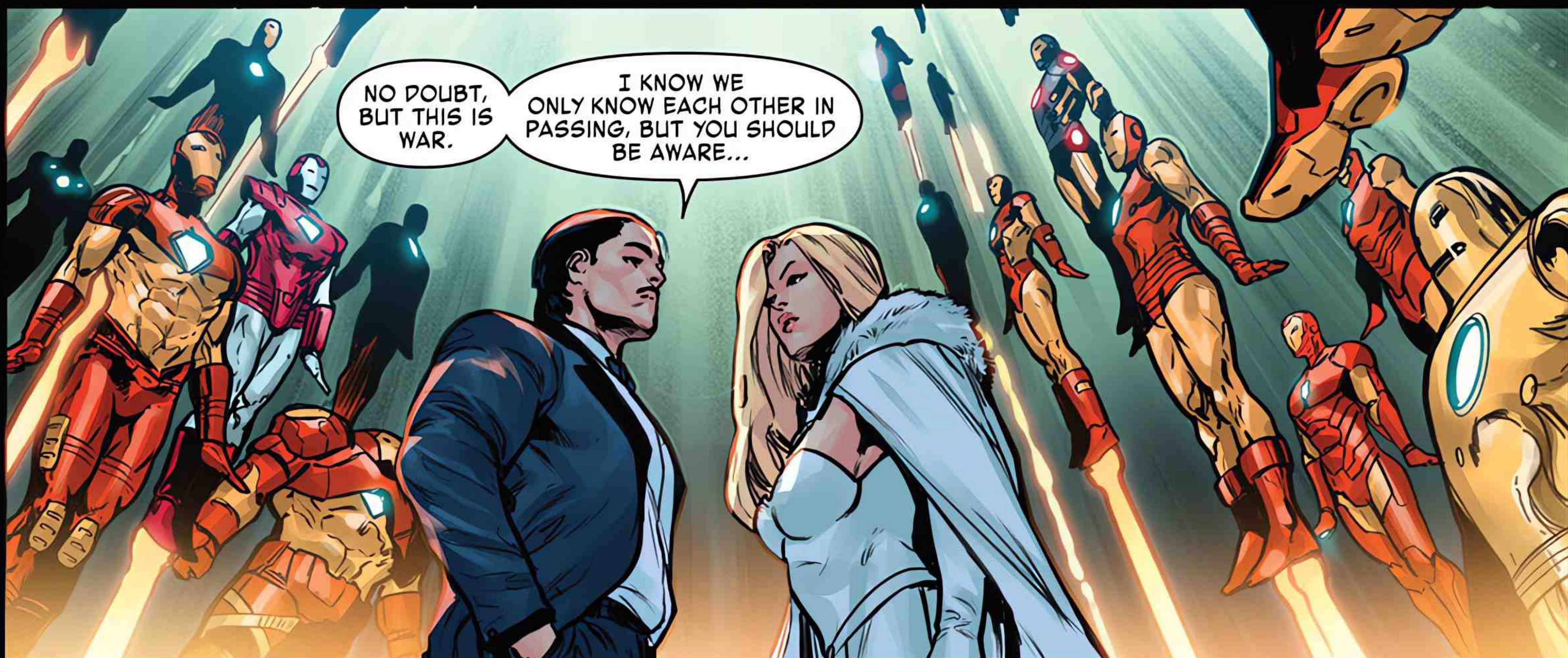
I JUST
READ IT.

IT'S
NOT THAT
GOOD.

IT'S
JUST A FIRST
DRAFT.

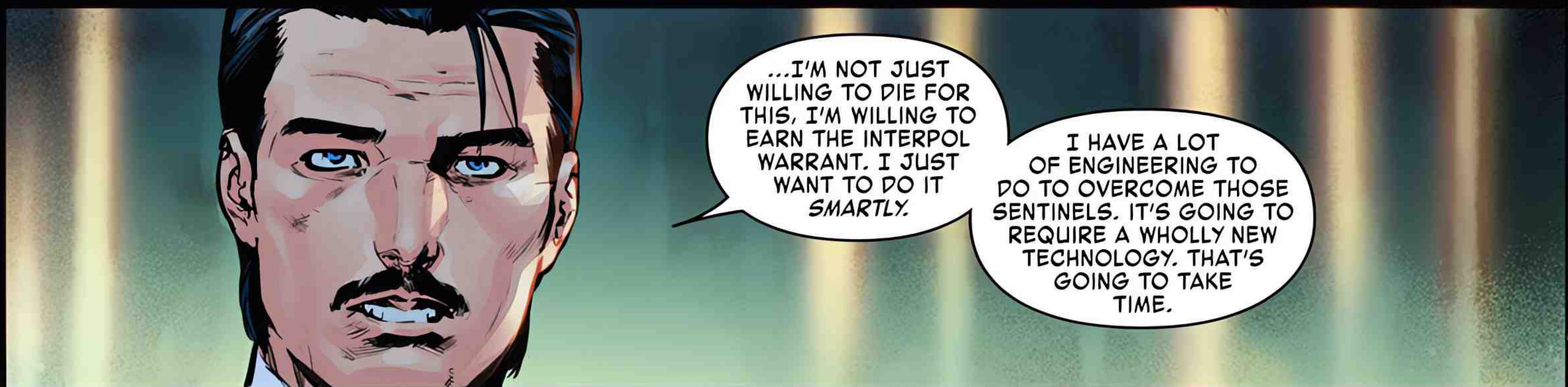
BUT IT'S
NOT WHAT I
SHOULD BE WORKING
ON. I NEED A NEW
ARMOR. I THINK.
MAYBE TWO.

SOUNDS
EXPENSIVE.



NO DOUBT,
BUT THIS IS
WAR.

I KNOW WE
ONLY KNOW EACH OTHER IN
PASSING, BUT YOU SHOULD
BE AWARE...



...I'M NOT JUST
WILLING TO DIE FOR
THIS, I'M WILLING TO
EARN THE INTERPOL
WARRANT. I JUST
WANT TO DO IT
SMARTLY.

I HAVE A LOT
OF ENGINEERING TO
DO TO OVERCOME THOSE
SENTINELS. IT'S GOING TO
REQUIRE A WHOLLY NEW
TECHNOLOGY. THAT'S
GOING TO TAKE
TIME.



TIME IS NOT
ON OUR SIDE,
ANTHONY.

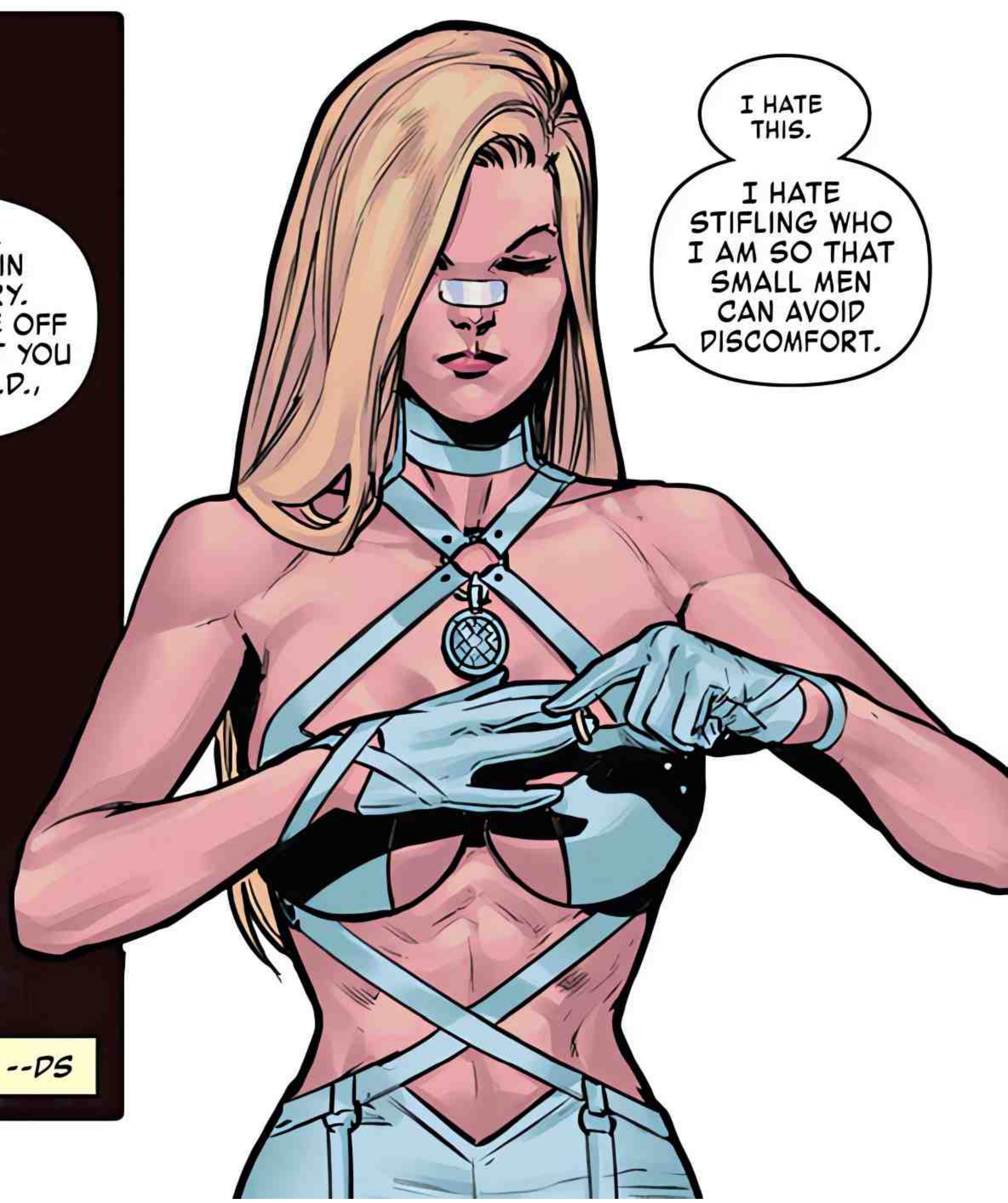
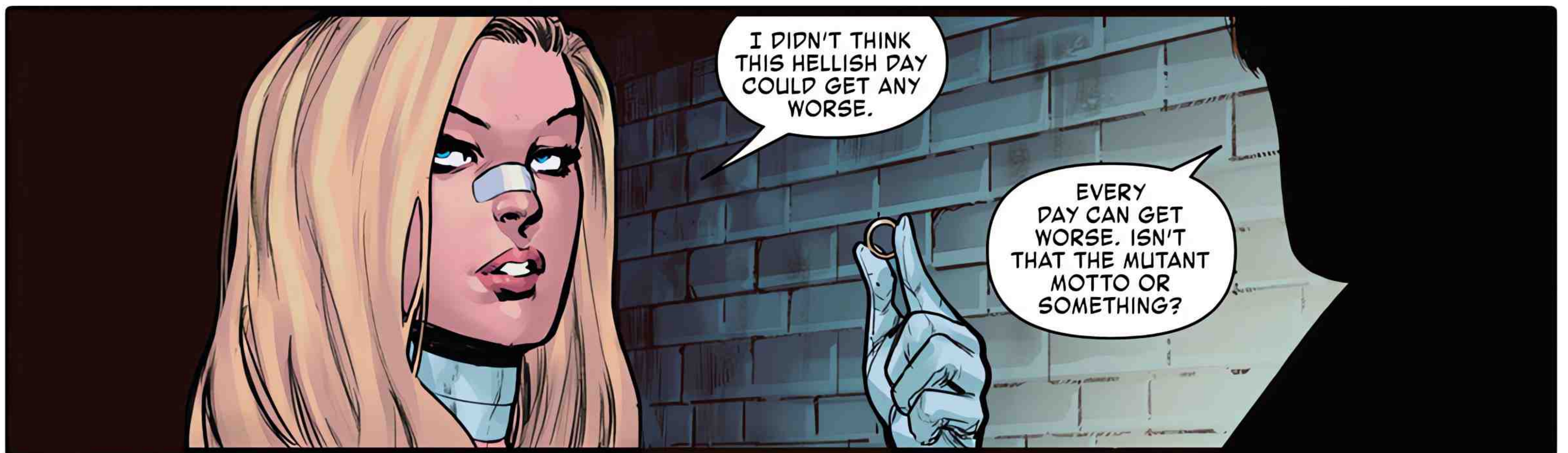
THEY TOOK EVERYTHING, BUT
THEY FAILED TO KILL ME. THAT
WAS THEIR MISTAKE.

IT WILL BE THEIR
DEATHS. I WILL
LET NO MAN
STOP ME.



BUT SMART. WE
DO IT SMART. SO...AN
ALLIANCE. TO THEIR
DEATHS?

TO THEIR
DEATHS.





WINDING UP
BACK HERE IS
THE LAST RING OF
HELL I COULD'VE
IMAGINED
PLUMMETING
TO.

WAIT--
WHERE ARE
WE?

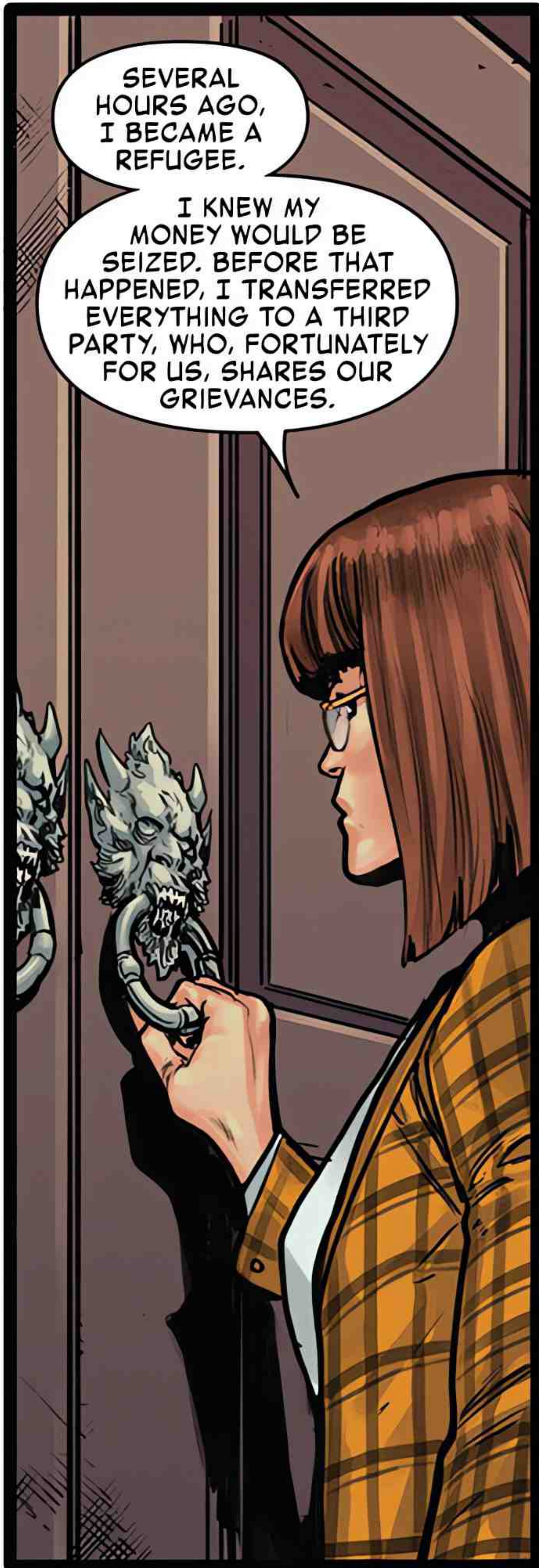


SURELY YOU
MUST RECOGNIZE
IT?

THE HELLFIRE
CLUB?!

YOU CAN'T--THIS WILL
BE THE FIRST PLACE
THEY'LL LOOK FOR
YOU, HAZEL.

WE'RE NOT
HERE ON MY BEHALF.
IF YOU WANT TO HELP
YOUR INCARCERATED
FRIEND, THIS IS THE
WAY.



SEVERAL
HOURS AGO,
I BECAME A
REFUGEE.

I KNEW MY
MONEY WOULD BE
SEIZED. BEFORE THAT
HAPPENED, I TRANSFERRED
EVERYTHING TO A THIRD
PARTY, WHO, FORTUNATELY
FOR US, SHARES OUR
GRIEVANCES.



UH...

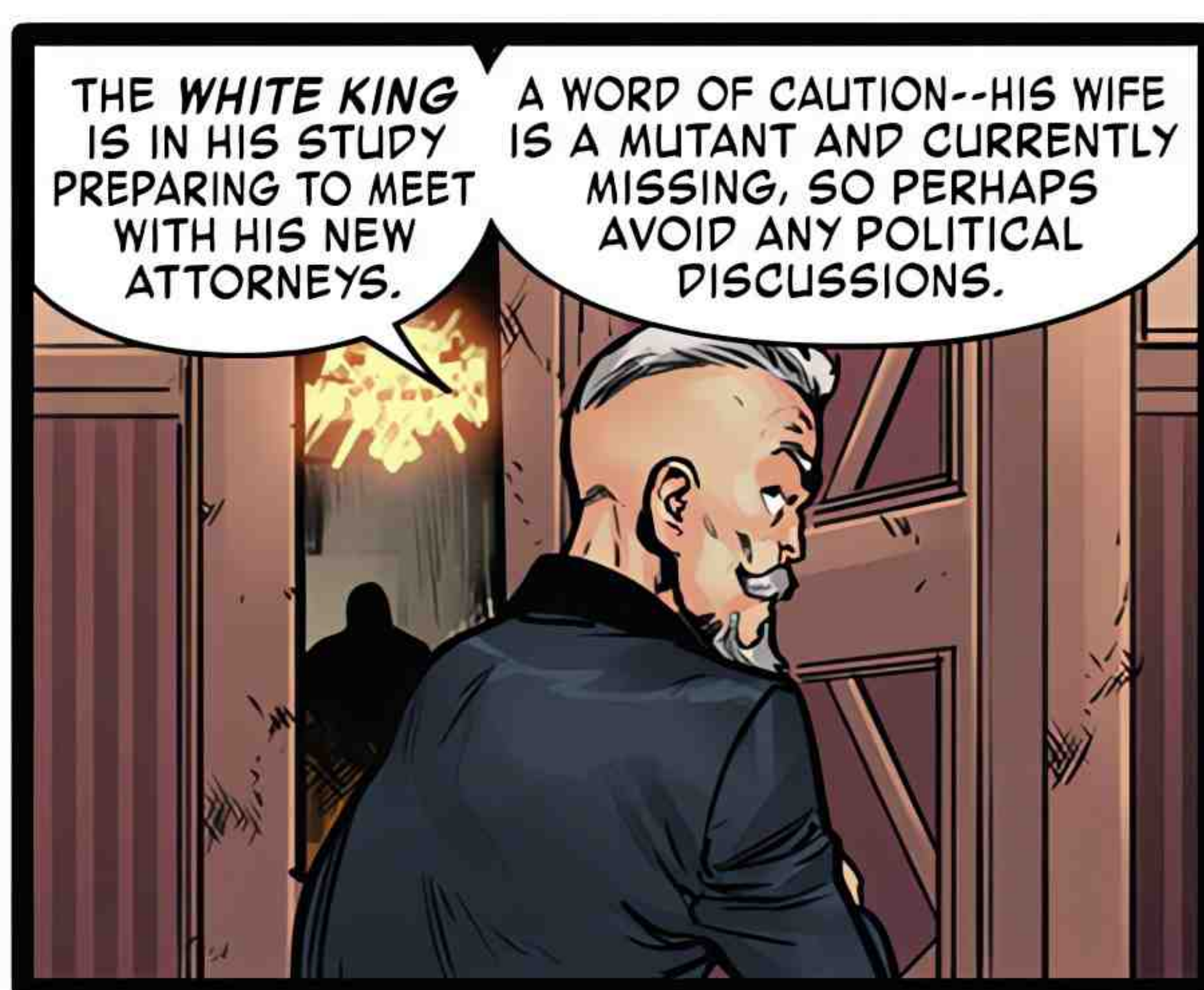
MR. REDDICK. GOOD
TO SEE YOU AFTER SO
MUCH TIME. YOU SEEM
UNWELL. SURELY YOU
REMEMBER ME. HAZEL
KENDAL--ATTACHE
TO MR. STARK.

O-O OF
COURSE. WHAT A
SURPRISE.



MY
FATHER WAS
A MEMBER
HERE.

I
REMEMBER
HIM WELL, SIR.
A GOOD
MAN.



THE **WHITE KING**
IS IN HIS STUDY
PREPARING TO MEET
WITH HIS NEW
ATTORNEYS.

A WORD OF CAUTION--HIS WIFE
IS A MUTANT AND CURRENTLY
MISSING, SO PERHAPS
AVOID ANY POLITICAL
DISCUSSIONS.



OH MY
STARS AND
GARTERS.

MR. STARK,
MS. KENDAL, MAY
I PRESENT THE NEW
WHITE KING...

...MR.
WILSON
FISK.

WELCOME.

WE
HAVE MUCH TO
DISCUSS.

LET'S
GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS.

**NEXT:
HELLFIRE
RISES!**



NEXT

#10: SENTENCED TO LIFE

You are cordially invited to the wedding of Anthony Edward Stark and Emma Grace Frost...
Come join the lucky couple as they exchange vows.

Attire is Hellfire formal. Orchis raid to follow. Plus, some exclusive wedding extras!

EMAIL US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND MARK "OHAY TO PRINT"!

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